# 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## Achieving permanence with accountability

**Working paper submitted by Canada**

Realizing fully the purposes and objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons requires a commitment by all States parties to effect full implementation and ensure the Treaty's overall authority. Achieving permanence with accountability, the concept that underlay the indefinite extension of the treaty, is also a key goal.

Canada proposes that the Review Conference adopt outcomes designed to meet these objectives, by modifying the way we do business and fostering improved transparency and accountability.

Following are the outcomes proposed by Canada:

### Meetings

Recalling earlier Review Conference decisions on strengthening the Treaty review process, States parties recognize the need to have a capacity to consider, in a more authoritative and frequent manner, the state of the Treaty's implementation and to respond promptly to challenges to its fundamental purposes.

The States parties agree to meet annually in a one-week Conference of States Parties to consider and decide on any issues covered by the Treaty.

In the two years immediately preceding a Review Conference, the Annual Conference will be extended by one week to carry out the function of a Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee will finalize the procedural arrangements and make every effort to produce a consensus report containing recommendations for that Review Conference.

States parties also agree to establish a standing five-person bureau of the Treaty comprised of the President of the Review Conference and the chairpersons of each of the Annual Conferences, to be elected at the end of each Review Conference with a mandate extending until the subsequent Review Conference. The membership of this bureau will reflect on an equitable basis the United Nations regional groups. The standing bureau will provide continuity and oversight of the Treaty on behalf of its members and is empowered to convene, pursuant to a consensus decision of its

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own, extraordinary sessions of the Conference of States Parties when situations arise that threaten the integrity or viability of the Treaty. Such an extraordinary Conference will be convened within two weeks of a State party having submitted a notification of intent to withdraw from the Treaty.

**Reporting**

The Conference recalls the decision of the 2000 Review Conference on regular reports and recognizes the value of reporting for building confidence in the Treaty regime by promoting transparency and accountability, and providing States parties a way to demonstrate their active commitment to and participation in the implementation of the Treaty.

The Conference reaffirms the importance of reporting and States parties agree to provide reports on an annual basis on the implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and recalling the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996. Recognizing the interrelationship of the provisions of the Treaty, the Conference encourages States parties to include in their reports implementation actions on all articles of the Treaty.

**Civil Society**

The Conference welcomes the continuing contributions of civil society and non-governmental organizations to promoting non-proliferation and disarmament, and thus to furthering the objectives of the Treaty, through public education, research and analysis, the mobilization of political will and the promotion of transparency.

The Conference continues to support the effective participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in Treaty conferences and Preparatory Committee sessions and encourages the further development of rules of procedure and practice, in consultation with representatives of non-governmental organizations, to facilitate and optimize such participation. In accordance with current rules and past practice, representatives of non-governmental organizations are allowed to attend meetings of Treaty conferences and Preparatory Committee sessions, other than those designated as closed; to receive documents; to make written material available, at their own expense, to the participants; and to address delegates.

The Conference agrees that open meetings and appropriate seating arrangements for representatives of non-governmental organizations within the meeting rooms are important means of facilitating effective participation.

The Conference agrees to extend the provision for representatives of non-governmental organizations to address sessions including meetings of the Committees and subsidiary bodies.

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